## **REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

Please charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 22-0185.

Dated: 2-18-04

Respectfully submitted,

Burton A. Amernick

Registration No.: 24,852

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, DC 20036-3425

202-331-7111

202-293-6229 (fax)

Attorney for Applicant